

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (currently amended) A method for ~~decreasing image acquisition time~~ processing an image in a digital image device, comprising:  
capturing an image;  
dividing the captured image into a plurality of image segments;  
performing image processing on each of the plurality of image segments; and  
storing each of the plurality of image segments ~~on the storage medium~~.
2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the performing step comprises performing image processing on each of the plurality of image segments in pipeline stages sequentially.
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3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2~~1~~, wherein the storing step comprises ~~beginning storage of~~ storing an image segment each of the plurality of image segments as soon as said step of performing image processing on said image segment has been completed ~~a first one of the plurality of image segments arrives at the storage medium~~.
4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 3~~1~~, wherein the performing step is being performed on a first image segment when and the storing step is being performed on a second image segment ~~are performed simultaneously on at least two of the plurality of image segments~~.
5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 3~~1~~, wherein the dividing step comprises: dividing the image into a plurality of image segments that overlap one another.
6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: stitching the plurality of image segments together to restore the image after the performing step.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the stitching step comprises: stitching the plurality of image segments together sequentially following the performing step.

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein one of the pipeline stages is divided into the performing step comprising:

~~performing at least a portion of the image processing in~~ at least two parallel image processing stages.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the performing step comprises: performing at least a portion of the image processing in at least two parallel image processing stages.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the steps comprising:

causing a digital image device to capture~~capturing an image with a digital image device;~~

~~causing dividing the captured image to be divided into a plurality of image segments;~~

causing performing image processing to be performed on each of the plurality of image segments; and

causing storing each of the plurality of image segments to be stored on ~~the~~ storage medium.

11. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the ~~performing step comprising~~ performing of causing the image processing to be performed on each of the plurality of image segments sequentially in pipeline stages.

12. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim ~~11~~ 10, wherein said ~~having further computer-executable instructions for performing the storing step comprising~~

~~beginning storage of causing each of the plurality of image segments to be stored occurs as soon as a first one of the plurality of image segments arrives at the storage medium.~~

Sub 13. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim ~~12~~10, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the ~~performing step and the storing step simultaneously on different ones of the plurality of image segments~~ of causing the image processing to be performed on a first image segment when a second image segment is being stored on the storage medium.

Alp con 14. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim ~~12~~10, wherein said step of causing the captured image to be divided into a plurality of image segments includes having further computer-executable instructions for performing the ~~dividing step comprising: dividing causing the image to be divided~~ into a plurality of image segments that overlap one another.

15. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, having further computer-executable instructions comprising: ~~stitching causing the plurality of image segments to be stitched together to restore the image after the performing step of causing image processing to be performed on each of the plurality of image segments.~~

16. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 15, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the ~~stitching step of causing the plurality of image segments to be stitched together comprising: stitching causing the plurality of image segments to be stitched together sequentially following the performing step.~~

17. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 15, wherein ~~one of the pipelines stage is divided into~~ having further computer-executable instructions for performing the ~~performing step comprising: performing at least a portion of the image processing in at least two parallel image-processing stages.~~

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18. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the ~~performing step of causing image processing to be performed~~ includes comprising: performing causing at least a portion of the image processing to be performed in at least two parallel image processing stages.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus ~~for decreasing image acquisition time in a digital image device~~, comprising:

an image sensor that captures an image;

a ~~controller~~ processor that divides the captured image into a plurality of image segments and performs image processing ~~of on~~ each of the plurality of image segments ~~and outputs processed image segments~~; and

a storage medium that stores each of the processed image segments.

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20. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the processor ~~controller~~ is arranged to perform the image processing of the plurality of image segments ~~in pipeline stages~~ sequentially.

21. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~20~~ 19, wherein the storage medium stores ~~controller is arranged to store~~ each of the processed data segments as each of the processed data segments arrives at the storage medium.

22. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the ~~controller~~ processor is arranged to stitch the processed image segments together to restore the image.

23. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~22~~ 19, wherein the ~~controller~~ processor is arranged to perform at least a portion of the image processing in at least two parallel image processing stages.

24. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

storing image file information ~~on the storage medium~~, wherein the image file information corresponds to the plurality of image segments for ~~an a stored image stored on the storage medium~~; and

updating the image file information that has been affected by the step of performing image processing ~~performed~~ on any one of the plurality of image segments corresponding to the stored image.

25. (currently amended) The method according to claim 24, further comprising: modifying at least one of the stored plurality of image segments ~~stored on the storage medium~~ that has been affected by the step of performing image processing ~~performed on subsequent ones~~ any one of the plurality of image segments corresponding to the stored image ~~on the storage medium~~.

26. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, further comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

storing image file information on the storage medium, wherein the image file information corresponds to the plurality of image segments for an image stored on the storage medium; and

updating ~~the~~ image file information that has been affected by ~~the~~ image processing performed on any one of the plurality of image segments corresponding to the stored image.

27. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 26, further comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the step of: modifying at least one of the plurality of image segments stored on the storage medium that has been affected by ~~the~~ image processing performed on ~~subsequent ones~~ any one of the plurality of image segments corresponding to the stored image ~~on the storage medium~~.